

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Litt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,586,561). This rejection is traversed.

Present claims 1-11 are directed to a polymer electrolyte comprising a sulfonated product of a polymer shown by general formula (I). In general formula (I), at least two Y structures in a row are required ("y represents an integer of two or more").

The Office Action apparently asserts that Litt et al. Structure II anticipates the present claims. One of the characteristics of the present invention is that the polymer electrode of the present invention comprises the sulfonated product having the combination of the structure Y and the structure X and/or the structure Z, and the two aromatic rings are directly combined at the end of the structure Y and the structure X (or the structure Z).

On the other hand, the Office Action does not compare the whole structure of the sulfonated product of the present invention with the whole structure of the polymers in Litt et al. Additionally, in Litt et al., there are no descriptions or indications about the combination of the structure Y and the structure X and/or the structure Z.

That is, the polymer electrode of the present invention has totally different concepts from the polymers in Litt et al. Therefore, the polymer electrode of the present invention has well-balanced properties including proton conductivity, hot water resistance, and Fenton's reagent resistance.

Thus, Litt et al. can not anticipate the present claims.

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Thus, allowance of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 027050-00001. Thus, please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 027050-00001.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810
TECH/302442.1